



# KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

## Signature Report

February 12, 2001

### Ordinance 14043

**Proposed No.** 2000-0570.2

**Sponsors** Miller and Phillips

1 AN ORDINANCE relating to siting of the north  
2 wastewater treatment plant, its system conveyance and  
3 marine outfall  
4  
5

6 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

7 SECTION 1. Findings. In Ordinance No. 13680, the King County Council  
8 adopted the Regional Wastewater Systems Plan (“Regional Plan”). Included in the  
9 Regional Plan is a call for the construction of a north wastewater treatment plant,  
10 outfall, and associated conveyances (“NTF” or “north treatment facilities”). The  
11 council hereby makes the following findings of fact. It is necessary to provide policy  
12 and procedural direction for the development of site selection criteria for the North  
13 Treatment Facilities. It is also necessary to provide more detailed guidance, through the  
14 policy criteria set forth below, as to the NTF proposal objectives. Adopted county  
15 wastewater treatment plant policy TPP-9 states that the “executive shall transmit a  
16 motion to the council that establishes the criteria by which sites will be selected” and

17 that the “executive shall establish one or more committees to aid in the siting of a north  
18 treatment plant.”

19 In accordance with this policy, the King county and Snohomish county  
20 executives jointly appointed a twenty-four-member siting advisory committee. The  
21 siting advisory committee is composed of representatives from two tribal governments,  
22 eleven cities and towns located in the approximate site selection area, three utility  
23 districts and representatives from environmental, labor, business, community and  
24 economic development organizations and agencies. This committee has worked  
25 diligently over the past months to evaluate and refine the policy siting criteria for  
26 presentation to the council. Based on the call for public involvement in Policy TPP-9,  
27 the county has engaged in a comprehensive public involvement process that provided  
28 the opportunity for public input on the criteria.

29 Upon consideration of the public input and technical analysis provided regarding  
30 NTF siting, the council finds that enactment of this ordinance will provide additional  
31 clear policy, procedural and schedule direction for the selection of candidate NTF sites  
32 and the development of site selection criteria. This ordinance will also provide  
33 additional guidance as to the proposal objectives of the North Treatment Plant Facilities  
34 and what constitutes reasonable alternatives for subsequent detailed environmental  
35 review of a limited number of NTF sites.

36 SECTION 2. Definitions. The definitions in this section apply throughout this  
37 ordinance unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

38           A. “Candidate site” means a site that has been screened using the siting  
39 criteria and that is selected for consideration as a possible site for the north treatment  
40 facilities.

41           B. “Final candidate site” means a candidate site that meets the siting criteria,  
42 and that may be evaluated as a reasonable alternative in the environmental impact  
43 statement for the north treatment facilities pursuant to the State Environmental Policy  
44 Act.

45           C. “North treatment facilities” or “NTF” means the north wastewater  
46 treatment plant and its system conveyance and marine outfall.

47           D. “North treatment plant” means the north wastewater treatment plant only.

48           E. “Regional Plan” means the Regional Wastewater Services Plan adopted by  
49 Ordinance 13680.

50           F. “Shall seek” means that the county hopes to find a candidate site that meets  
51 the criteria but may select a candidate site that does not meet all criteria if the site has  
52 other favorable features.

53           G. “Shall select” means that any candidate site that is selected shall meet this  
54 criterion.

55           H. “Site screening criteria” means the criteria to be used to select the  
56 candidate sites for consideration for the north treatment facilities.

57           I. “Site selection criteria” means the criteria to be used to select final sites that  
58 will be evaluated as reasonable alternatives in the environmental impact statement on the  
59 north treatment facilities pursuant to the State Environmental Policy Act.

60           SECTION 3. In conformance with Regional Wastewater Services Plan Policy  
61           TPP-9, siting criteria shall be approved in two phases. In Phase I, site screening criteria  
62           shall be approved and used to select candidate sites for further consideration. In Phase II,  
63           site selection criteria shall be approved and used to select the final candidate sites for  
64           evaluation as reasonable alternatives in the environmental impact statement.

65           This ordinance adopts Phase I site screening criteria. Phase II site selection  
66           criteria shall be adopted by subsequent legislation and may supplement and refine criteria  
67           based on additional policy considerations to be identified as a result of agency review and  
68           public comment.

69           SECTION 4. The Regional Plan emphasizes the critical importance of ensuring  
70           that the NTF is operational by 2010, in order to protect public health and welfare. In  
71           order to accomplish this objective within that timeframe, the council establishes the  
72           following executive and council deadlines for each of the procedural actions set forth in  
73           this ordinance. The following process shall be used to select the final candidate sites for  
74           the NTF:

75           A. The site screening criteria adopted in this ordinance shall be used to select  
76           candidate NTF sites.

77           B. The executive shall concurrently transmit proposed legislation adopting the  
78           list of candidate sites and site selection criteria within 45 days of adoption of this  
79           ordinance. The council shall act on the proposed legislation within 60 days of its  
80           transmission.

81           C. Within 120 days after the adoption of the site selection criteria legislation and  
82           after the site selection criteria have been applied to the candidate sites, the executive shall

transmit for adoption by ordinance a list of proposed final candidate sites. Within 80 days of this transmission, the council shall approve by ordinance final candidate sites.

D. The executive shall select the NTF site.

E. Public review and opportunity to comment will be provided prior to any council action authorized under this ordinance.

**SECTION 5. Community policy site screening criteria.**

A. Community impacts.

1. King County shall seek NTF sites that can be appropriately developed and mitigated to be compatible with surrounding land and marine uses.

2. King County shall seek NTF sites that can be appropriately and effectively mitigated for potential impacts to the community such as noise, visual, odor and traffic effects.

3. King County shall select NTF sites in a manner consistent with the Growth Management Act.

B. Cultural resources. King County shall seek NTF sites that minimize impacts to known significant cultural resources.

C. Community amenity

1. King County shall seek NTF sites where it is possible to enhance and provide benefit to the community, through appropriate and effective mitigation.

2. King County shall seek opportunities to enhance and provide benefit to the environment, such as habitat, wetlands, surface waters, groundwater, or cultural resources through appropriate mitigation of project impacts.

**SECTION 6. Technical policy site screening criteria.**

A. Size, shape and topography

1. King County shall select NTF sites that provide sufficient area to accommodate the proposed facilities, an appropriate buffer, and, at the treatment plant, room for future treatment process upgrades.

2. King County shall seek NTF sites that do not require extensive alteration due to either steep slopes or hazard mitigation, or both.

3. King County shall seek a north treatment plant site that is located at an elevation that allows efficient use of energy for conveyance of sewage to the plant and conveyance of treated effluent to Puget Sound.

4. King County shall seek NTF sites that provide opportunity for water reclamation and reuse.

B. Geology, soils and groundwater.

1. King County shall seek NTF sites that minimize exposure to geologic hazards, poor soil conditions and unsuitable subsurface geology.

2. King County shall seek NTF sites that minimize the need for dewatering during facilities construction or operation.

C. Site Access and utilities.

1. King County shall seek NTF sites with adequate vehicle access to and from major roadways or sites where adequate access can be developed.

2. King County shall seek NTF sites with adequate, reliable and cost-competitive power supply or for which the county can obtain adequate supply.

3. King County shall seek NTF sites with adequate emergency response services, such as fire and medical, or for which the county can develop or obtain adequate services.

D. Conveyance routes. King County shall seek conveyance routes that minimize the complexity of conveying flows to and from the north treatment plant site.

E. System reliability. King County shall seek NTF sites that can be developed and mitigated with effective flow management during emergencies.

F. Sustainability. King County shall seek NTF sites that support opportunities for reuse of treatment process by-products.

G. Land acquisition, easements, rights-of-way. King County shall seek NTF sites that minimize acquisition complexity in order to avoid or minimize risk of project delay and cost overruns.

**SECTION 7. Environmental site screening criteria.**

**A. Biological resource protection.**

1. King County shall seek NTF sites that can be developed and mitigated to minimize adverse effects to biological resources including: threatened, endangered and candidate species listed under the federal Endangered Species Act; endangered, threatened, sensitive and candidate species listed under the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's Priority Habitats and Species, and Species of concern; and any officially designated local natural resources.

2. King County shall seek outfall locations that can be developed and mitigated to minimize effects on sensitive near-shore and offshore marine resources.

**B. Water resources protection.**

1. King County shall select NTF sites where it is feasible to construct and operate facilities in a manner that protects municipal drinking water wells and potable groundwater resources.

152           2. King County shall seek NTF sites that can be developed and mitigated to  
153 minimize adverse effects to local surface waters.

154           3. King County shall seek NTF sites where it is feasible to construct and operate  
155 facilities that will not be at risk during a flood event.

156           C. Human health. King County shall select NTF outfall locations that can be  
157 developed and mitigated in a manner that will meet state and federal laws that protect  
158 public health related to recreation, fishing, shellfish, harvesting, seafood consumption,  
159 tribal usage or other human use activities.

160           D. Contamination. King County shall seek NTF sites that can be developed and  
161 mitigated in a manner that minimizes disruptions or mobilization of hazardous materials  
162 into the environment.

163           **SECTION 8. Financial site screening criteria – overall system cost.**

164           A. Lifetime costs. King County shall seek NTF sites that will result in  
165 reasonable lifetime costs for the plant, conveyance activities and outfall, through  
166 consideration of acquisition costs, capital costs, operations, maintenance and mitigation.

167           B. Financial security and bonding. King County shall select NTF sites that can  
168 be developed and mitigated within the financial security and bonding capacity for the  
169 wastewater system consistent with the county's legal and contractual commitments  
170 regarding the use of sewer revenues to pay for sewer expenses.  
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Ordinance 14043 was introduced on 10/2/00 and passed as amended by the Metropolitan King County Council on 2/12/01, by the following vote:

Yes: 13 - Mr. von Reichbauer, Ms. Miller, Ms. Fimia, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Pelz,  
Mr. McKenna, Ms. Sullivan, Mr. Nickels, Mr. Pullen, Mr. Gossett, Ms.  
Hague, Mr. Vance and Mr. Irons  
No: 0  
Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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Pete von Reichbauer, Chair

ATTEST:

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Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_.

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Ron Sims, County Executive

**Attachments**       None